

Amendments to the Claims/Listing of Claims

Please amend claims 1, 3-7, 11, 13, 15, and 17, add new claim 20, and cancel claim 12 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein,
wherein said protein is encoded by DNA that hybridizes under **suitable low** stringency **conditions** to the complement of polynucleotide ~~sequences~~ **sequence** set forth in ~~SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9 or~~ SEQ ID NO:14, so as to allow identification of sequences having at least 50% nucleic acid identity with respect to ~~the reference polynucleotide sequences~~ **SEQ ID NO:14**;
wherein said receptor protein binds CRF; and
wherein said protein is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).
2. (Original) The isolated protein according to claim 1 having sufficient binding affinity for CRF such that concentrations of less than or equal to 10 nanomolar CRF occupy greater than or equal to 50% of the binding sites of said receptor protein.
3. (Currently amended) The isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said protein is encoded by DNA having at least 60% nucleic acid identity with respect to ~~the reference polynucleotide sequences~~ **SEQ ID NO:14**.
4. (Currently amended) The isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said protein is encoded by DNA having at least 70% nucleic acid identity with respect to ~~the reference polynucleotide sequences~~ **SEQ ID NO:14**.

5. (Currently amended) The isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said protein is encoded by DNA having at least 80% nucleic acid identity with respect to ~~the reference polynucleotide sequences~~ SEQ ID NO:14.
6. (Currently amended) The isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said protein is encoded by DNA having at least 90% nucleic acid identity with respect to ~~the reference polynucleotide sequences~~ SEQ ID NO:14.
7. (Currently amended) The isolated protein according to claim 1 having the amino acid sequence set forth in ~~SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10 or~~ SEQ ID NO:15.
8. (Original) The isolated protein according to claim 1 having a radioactive labelling element attached thereto.
9. (Original) The isolated protein according to claim 1, wherein said isolated protein is a recombinant protein.
10. (Original) A composition comprising an isolated protein according to claim 1.
11. (Currently amended) An ~~immunogenic~~ antigenic fragment of an isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein;
wherein said protein is encoded by DNA that hybridizes under ~~suitable~~ low stringency conditions to the complement of polynucleotide ~~sequences~~ sequence set forth in ~~SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9 or~~ SEQ ID NO:14, so as to allow identification of sequences having at least 50% nucleic acid identity with respect to ~~the reference polynucleotide sequences~~ SEQ ID NO:14;
wherein said receptor protein binds CRF; and
wherein said protein is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A substantially pure polypeptide comprising at least 15 contiguous amino acids of the amino acid sequence set forth in ~~SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10 or~~ SEQ ID NO:15;

wherein said polypeptide is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).

14. (Original) The polypeptide according to claim 13, wherein a residue selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, cysteine, lysine, glutamic acid and aspartic acid has been attached by a peptide bond to the carboxyl terminus of said polypeptide.

15. (Currently amended) An isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein,

wherein said protein is encoded by DNA that hybridizes to the complement of polynucleotide ~~sequences~~ sequence set forth in ~~SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9 or~~ SEQ ID NO:14, under hybridization conditions comprising a temperature of about 42 °C, a formamide concentration of about 20% and a salt concentration of about 0.6 M NaCl, followed by wash conditions comprising a temperature of about 42-50 °C and a salt concentration of about 0.3 M NaCl;

wherein said receptor protein binds CRF; and

wherein said protein is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).

16. (Original) The isolated protein according to claim 15, wherein said isolated protein is a recombinant protein.

17. (Currently amended) An isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein,

wherein said protein is encoded by DNA that hybridizes to the complement of polynucleotide ~~sequences~~ sequence set forth in ~~SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9~~ ~~or~~ SEQ ID NO:14, under hybridization conditions comprising a temperature of about 42 °C, a formamide concentration of about 50%, and a salt concentration of about 5x SSPE, followed by wash conditions comprising a temperature of about 65 °C and a salt concentration of about 0.2x SSPE;

wherein said receptor protein binds CRF; and

wherein said protein is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).

18. (Original) The isolated protein according to claim 17, wherein said isolated protein is a recombinant protein.

19. (Original) A diagnostic kit for assaying for the presence in biological fluids of CRF-R protein, CRF-R protein analogs, and/or CRF-R fragments, said kit comprising:

(a) an isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein according to claim 1, and/or

(b) one or more antibodies generated against said protein or immunologic fragment thereof.

20. (New) An isolated mammalian G protein-coupled corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF) receptor protein,

wherein said protein is encoded by DNA that hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to the complement of polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:14, so as to allow identification of sequences having at least 60% nucleic acid identity to SEQ ID NO:14;

wherein said receptor protein binds CRF; and

wherein said protein is at least about 70% pure (by weight of total proteins).